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**TELEPHONE MAIN 661.**  
 Official paper of Clatsop County and the City of Astoria.

**WEATHER.**  
 Western Washington and Oregon—Rain; southwesterly winds.  
 Eastern Oregon, Southern Idaho—Rain or snow.  
 Eastern Washington, Northern Idaho—Rain cooler.

**THE QUESTION WOULD NOT DOWN!**  
 The citizens of Astoria have negatived the proposition of William H. Garland, of New York, for the establishment of steamship lines out of this port to the Orient and Alaska, because they could not ascertain with whom they are dealing. The terms of the proposal were entirely satisfactory, but involving as they did, the early subscription of the strenuous sum of \$500,000, and its withdrawal from circulation here for a period of nine months, they felt quite justified in their insistence upon very definite knowledge as to whom they were dealing with and the ratio of responsibility resting with the projectors of the plan. Nor is this insistence unreasonable; and Mr. Garland's rather peremptory refusal to enlighten us on the one essential issue of the large matter, is the fundamental reason for its signal failure.  
 There was no disposition to delve into his private affairs; no desire for details beyond the province of our inquiry as a business community; but his manner on several occasions indicated an indifference if not a resentment, in this relation, that rather augmented the demand, and his complete refusal to meet the inquiry was all that raised the final barrier.  
 Mr. Garland did not have to give what information in this regard was essential to the Astoria public; he could have agreed to meet our wishes by imparting all that was needed in this line to the special committee originally chosen to handle this important deal, and having shown them enough of his status and credentials to ensure an adequate understanding, they could have reported back, and their word would have been quite as good in this community as his or Bradstreet's. It was a definite assurance that was wanted; not personal and particular information; and Mr. Garland's rather aggressive attitude in the face of these pertinent inquiries is altogether chargeable with the reactive.  
 Astoria is loth to pass up any propo-

sition of this nature; she is sharply in line for all such developments as this and eagerly alive to their value; she hailed this with immense, but quiet satisfaction, and would have seized and held it but for the facts quoted above. But being denied the explicit and rational knowledge of who and what were behind the scheme, she forbore to plunge; and, to all intents and purposes, the thing is off.  
 Superficial statements are alright as far as they go, but they rarely serve to carry so large a proposition as this to any sort of binding issue. In this day of chicane, double-dealing, and financial high-vaulting on other peoples' money, there is a very natural, and growing, sense of reserve in the public mind, that, dispensing with glittering superficialities, demands of right, and reason, something very much more tangible: Mr. Garland having rather haughtily refused this reasonable ingredient, has put it beyond acceptance here; though it is understood, that Tom Richardson, who happened to be here during the early negotiations, indicated to Mr. Garland, that if he failed to connect here, he might succeed very quickly at Portland; which may be true enough, yet we venture the assertion that if Portland takes the deal in hand, it will not be until she has turned Mr. Garland inside out on the very things we sought to know and were baffled.  
 There is left us the pleasant reflection, however, that Astoria is forging to the front of financial and industrial consideration abroad, and it is not unreasonable to expect that others will follow the gentleman from New York, with greater, or lesser, proposals for investment here, some of which, coming in more candid guise and condition will materialize for the good of all concerned.

**BRE'ER TAFT AT HOME.**  
 Hon. William H. Taft, United States Secretary of War, has returned from his long trip through Europe and is again on duty at the national capital. We note that he is not saying much in a political way, but is telling happy and appropriate stories of what befell him in the lands abroad. It is hardly reasonable to expect him to plunge into a range-ful discussion of the political situation, with the spring of the gang-plank still swaying his rotund frame; but we will not wait long for a clean-cut statement from this important element in the country's Presidential program. He will say what is necessary without much loss of time, when he shall have duly sensed the real status of affairs, as they have warped and woven, during his absence.  
 Mr. Taft is logically in line to succeed his great chief; and his known affiliation with the President' policies and programs, will gain him instant and respectful hearing all over the country; and yet, it is incumbent upon him to show that he is all the people count him to be, quite independent of the admitted espousal of the Rooseveltian doctrine: We are not looking for parrots, nor lay-figures, in this year of grace; we want a whole and wholesome man in the executive chair at Washington, and no other sort will arrive there if we know anything of the popular temper.  
 Taft will be tried out to the last lining of his conscience and character, before the assembling of the great convention in Chicago, and the ordeal will be the same for every other aspirant in the field. We have become accustomed to big men and big things and the vastness of the country and its co-ordinate volume of huge interests, calls for the culling of the weaklings and the selection and election of a very genuine man.

**ONLY TWO DAYS**  
 Left to do your X-Mas trading.  
 Of course there are many presents you must get yet but you wonder what shall it be  
**The Boston Store**  
 Stands ready to help you out with their fine assortments of Toys, Fancy Goods, Handkerchiefs, X-Mas Slippers of all kinds Silk Umbrells, Ladies Fancy Collars, Mens' Gloves-Ties-Suspenders, etc.  
 And Will Positively SAVE You 10 to 25 per cent on Every Article.  
 Don't Forget We Are Showing the Finest Line of **CANDIES** in Astoria.  
 The 25c and 35c Kinds at 15c; the 50c and 65c Kinds at 25c.  
**THE BOSTON STORE**  
 Successors to the Morse Department Store.

He who passes the try-out will be worthy the deepest public consideration; and all will get it who shall achieve to convention honors in the coming summer; while the November judgment will be historical for the profundity of its popular wisdom. This great function of the people is becoming, yearly, a dearer and graver prerogative, and Theodore Roosevelt is responsible for the access. He has set a pace that forever precludes the choice of an inferior man, in any of the political divisions of the nation. Mr. Taft may achieve to the splendid dignity, but if he does, the people will cut out his works for him and see that he does it thoroughly. The day is at hand when the people of the United States want it known that they live and have their being somewhere else than in the covers of the Constitutions and statutes of the country.  
**MIDNIGHT MASS IN ROME.**  
 It was a simple service in the church of St. Luc des Francais with the babe smiling from the cradle before the altar. One wondered how anyone could spend the holy night in any other way than in prayer beside a manger—do not the very oxen kneel at midnight? And how very unimportant seemed to me all the books I had read about the first chapters of St. Matthew and St. Luke! Nothing really mattered except peace on earth and good will among men.—The Travel Magazine.

**EDITORIAL SALAD.**  
 The 12,000 sailors on the sixteen battleships will have an interesting story to tell how they looped the loop of the Western Hemisphere.  
 General Funston's presence in Goldfield did not add much to the bulk of the population, but should trouble arise the miners will find him to be a rich specimen of concentrated quartz.  
 The air at Denver is so rarefied that it is hard to understand why the town wants to be the birthplace of a Democratic national platform.  
 The oldest of the sixteen battleships on the way to the Pacific was completed since the war with Spain. Spring and fall styles in navies are expensive, but it is necessary to keep up with the mode.  
 Great Britain is comparatively a small bit of land, but it mined last year \$500,000,000 worth of coal. The coal wealth of the United States runs into too many billions to look reasonable.  
 It would be a pity if Russia should execute General Stoessel and at the same time add to the decorations of the grand dukes who managed the military bureaus during the war with Japan.  
 A few years ago the people were crying for protection from the corporations.

Now the corporations are begging for protection from the people.  
 The theory that trouble always comes from an unexpected source does not hold good in the case of Senator Tillman.

President Roosevelt has already completed plans for his next vacation. He will go to Texas to play hide and seek with the bears.  
 Morning Astorian, 60 cents per month

**Money Deposited in the Scandinavian - American Savings Bank**  
 CAN BE WITHDRAWN AT ANY TIME; IF LEFT IN OUR SAVINGS DEPARTMENT OR ON TIME DEPOSIT, INTEREST WILL BE ALLOWED ACCORDING TO OUR RULES. COME IN AND ASK US ABOUT IT. IF YOU WANT TO BUY, BORROW SOME MONEY, OR TRANSACT ANY OTHER BUSINESS IN THE BANKING LINE, OUR BEST SERVICE ARE AT YOUR COMMAND.

**Here Are Christmas Specials**  
 In Winter Suits and Cravenettes at \$12, \$20 and \$25  
 THAT REPRESENT THE GREATEST CLOTHING VALUES EVER OFFERED HERE IN SEASON. AS OUR VARIOUS STYLE LOTS BECOME BROKEN IN SIZES, WE GROUP THE ODD GARMENTS AND MARK THEM AT PRICES THAT WILL INSURE THEIR SPEEDY SALE. NOW IS THE TIME FOR YOU TO BUY. COME EARLY, FOR THE QUANTITY AT EACH PRICE IS LIMITED.  
**"EFF-EFF" FASHIONABLE CLOTHES**  
 TYPIFY THE HIGHEST ATTAINMENT IN CLOTHES-MAKING FOR MEN. THEY ARE CLOTHES THAT SATISFY THE MOST EXACTING MEN'S IDEAS. STYLE, TAILORING, QUALITY AND FIT—THEY ARE THE BEST TO BE HAD READY-FOR-SERVICE.  
**HINTS FOR MEN'S HOLIDAY GIFTS**  
 FANCY HALF ROSE in various weaves, cotton, lisle, cashmere and silk, ranging at all prices; per pair.....25c UP  
 DRESS SHIRTS, regular or coat front, attached or detached cuffs \$1 to \$4.50  
 SILK SUSPENDERS, handsomely trimmed with gold or silver buckles in various colored silks.....75c to \$1.50  
 SILK UMBRELLAS, gold or silver-mounted; natural wood handles \$1.50 to \$5  
 CONQUEROR HATS—We are sole agents; one price, only..... \$3.00  
 HATS—We have hats of all kinds and all prices.....50c to \$5.00  
**HINTS FOR MEN'S HOLIDAY GIFTS**  
 SUITCASES—Hand-stitched; in various styles; leather-lined \$1.75 to \$15  
 SILK AND LINEN HANDKERCHIEFS at.....25c to \$1.00  
 SILK MUFFLERS in the very latest designs and colorings, also black and white.....50c to \$1.00  
 MEN'S COAT SWEATERS in gray and Oxford.....\$3.00 to \$4.50  
 SILK CRAVATS in the new style four-in-hands, ascots, English folded squares.....25c to \$1.00  
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